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DATE DISTR. 8 April 1955

NO. OF PAGES 1

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(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT

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1. The freighters termed "Brandwache" were to be fitted out as submarine tenders. It was rumored at HV Schiffbau (Main Shipbuilding Administration) that, with the aid of the Soviets, the construction of submarines was scheduled to be boosted in East Germany.

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- Construction [redacted] of the 3,000-ton freighters to be built ~~on schedule~~ by the VEB Schiffswerft Rostock (Shipyard) ~~were called~~ "Schwimmsende Brandwachen" (guard vessels). ~~These~~ [redacted] to be equipped with coal-fired boilers, were in the preliminary stages of section-building assembly, but were not yet completed in full design. Their external appearance was similar to the other freighters. They would be equipped with the necessary outfit for 300 to 400 persons but "on no account would be converted into passenger vessels" (sic). They would be outfitted with vast numbers of fire-fighting appliances. [redacted] "Brandwachen" [redacted] believed that this designation was only a code-name used in the shipyard. Construction [redacted] which would become oil-burners, were still in the planning stage. [redacted] would also get oil-fired boilers and were scheduled to be delivered to Bulgaria. Their construction has not yet been commenced.

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CONCLUSIONS

1. ☐ Comment. Despite numerous rumors concerning alleged plans provided by the USSR for the delivery of submarines to East Germany, no confirmation has been received that submarine personnel has been trained in the Sea Police or that submarines were being built at East German shipyards, nor were there any practical measures taken in this respect.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT 25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1955

SUBJECT Conversion of Freighters into Submarine Tenders

NO. OF PAGES 12

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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